



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Allen Forkner
402.471.2067
allen.forkner@nebraska.gov

Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

Attorney General Bruning Applauds Signing of Cigarette Trafficking Act

LINCOLN – Attorney General Jon Bruning today applauded President Obama’s signing of the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (PACT) Act, saying the new law will help keep tobacco out of kids’ hands and restrain tax evasion.

“Internet sales made it easier to buy tobacco if you were underage while allowing the sellers to skirt paying taxes,” Bruning said. “This legislation eliminates this loophole and helps us keep tobacco away from children.”

The PACT Act toughens penalties for renegade businesses that use the U.S. Post Office to illegally ship tobacco products. Attorney General Bruning championed the measure through the organization’s Tobacco Committee, which he co-chairs with Attorney General Martha Coakley of Massachusetts.

State attorneys general and federal officials have been concerned by interstate cigarette trafficking because it undercuts the public health principles of the landmark 1998 settlement with major tobacco companies – the Master Settlement Agreement – designed to lower tobacco use.

The PACT Act received unanimous Senate approval and little opposition in the U.S. House of Representatives. Cigarette trafficking will also be elevated from a misdemeanor offense to a felony crime.

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